

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01480 231105Z

67

ACTION AF-06

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R 230846Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3320

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDEV EINV SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI CELEBRATES SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIAD REGIME

1. SOMALIA CELEBRATED SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIAD REGIME SEPT 21 WITH TRADITIONAL MILITARY PARADE, WITH PUBLICATION OF TRADITIONAL SIAD STATEMENT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SOMALI REVOLUTION (SIXTY PAGES), ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC DECREES AND VARIOUS OTHER LOCAL FESTIVITIES. OFFICIAL HOLIDAY LASTED TWO DAYS -- OCT 21 AND 22.

2. SIXTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WERE LONG ON CEREMONY AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. MILITARY HARDWARE WHICH WAS DISPLAYED IN FOUR-HOUR PARADE OCT 21 CONTAINED LITTLE MIL EQUIPMENT THAT HADN'T BEEN SEEN IN PAST. (NEW ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY FOREIGN MIL ATTACHE WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL).

3. ALTHOUGH FULL ENGLISH TEXT OF SIAD SPEECH NOT RPT NOT YET AVAILABLE, UNDERSTAND THAT SPEECH CONTAINED NO RPT NO NEW
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01480 231105Z

FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC POLICY INITIATIVES. US --

I.E., BERBEJP A

HD DIEGO GARCIA -- APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT

MENTIONED, BUT FRENCH WERE WARNED ON FUTURE OF TFAI (FBIS
LONDON 211302Z).

4. ON EVE OF ANNIVERSARY, SRC ANNOUNCED THAT SDR COMMENCING
OCT 21 WOULD TAKE OVER IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES, SPARE PARTS,
FARM MACHINERY, WATER DRILLING EQUIPMENT, IMPORTATION OF
WEARING APPAREL, OFFICE AND FACTORY EQUIPMENT. PRIVATE FIRMS WILL
BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR INVESTMENTS. NATIONALIZATION OF
THESE AREAS OF PRIVATE SECTOR NOW LEAVES LITTLE COMMERCE IN
PRIVATE HANDS, PRINCIPALLY INTERNAL TRANSPORT AND IMPORTATION
OF CANNED GOODS. THERE WERE EVIDENTLY NO RPT NO
OTHER
ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS OF CONSEQUENCE.

5. SIAD ALSO TOLD NATION THAT FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTY
HAD BEEN DELAYED BUT THAT PREPARATIONS WERE STILL ACTIVELY
UNDERWAY. HE PROMISED ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ABOUT NATIONAL
PARTY IN NEAR FUTURE BUT THIS WAS SAME LINE HE USED IN 1974
OCTOBER 21 SPEECH.

6. MOST SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE TAKEN BY SIAD DURING
ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAYS WAS PARDONING OF IMPRISONED SOMALI
POLITICIANS FROM OLD REGIME, INCLUDING EX-PRIME MINISTER
EGAL HIMSELF (MOGADISCIO 1471). SOMALISY HUNDREDS HAVE
FLOCKED TO EGAL RESIDENCE TO GREET HIS RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE
AND NSS SERVICES HAVE NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPTED TO LIMIT QUEUES
WHO ARE GATHERING AT EGAL'S HOUSE.

7. WE UNDERSTAND EGAL MET WITH SIAD AFTER HIS RELEASE OCT 19
AND WAS THEN TAKEN ON TOUR OF CITY TO SEE DRAMATIC CHANGES EVIDENT
IN MOGADISCIO SINCE SIAD TOOK POWER IN 1969. WE HAVE REPORT
THAT EGAL WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED.

8. IF SIAD IS GENUINELY SEEKING MOOD OF NATIONAL CONCILIATION
TO UNDERTAKE NEW POLICY GOALS, OCT 21 ANNIVERSARY GAVE NO
RPT NO HINT OF WHAT THEY MIGHT BE. BUT FACT THAT SOMALI JAILS
NOW HOLD FEW POLITICAL DETAINEES REMAINS STILL AN ENCOURAGING
SIGN.

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 01480 231105Z

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